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SYLVESTER BIRD ROCKWELL

1813-1884

A Biographical Sketch

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SYLVESTER BIRD ROCKWELL

1813-1884

Family origin—Sir Ralph de Rocheville—Emigration to England—James Rockwell of Rockwell Hall—William Rockwell, first in America, 1628—John Rockwell settles in Connecticut, 1641—Family connections there—Emigration to Massachusetts—John Rockwell, Sen., Revolutionary soldier—John Rockwell, Jr., pioneer settler in Cornwall, Vermont, 1784—John Rockwell, 3rd, father of Sylvester Bird Rockwell, the subject of this sketch.

ROCKWELL ANCESTORS

The Rockwell family was of Norman origin. The first name in England was Sir Ralph de Rocheville, one of the knights who accompanied Princess Maud, daughter of Henry III, into England in 1139 when she claimed the English throne. James Rockwell, Esq., of Rockwell Hall, Boroughbridge, County of York, is also a known representative of the family in Great Britain. He gave his estate to Queen Victoria as a nursery for her children. William Rockwell, the first member of the Rockwell family to migrate to America, came to Dorchester, Massachusetts, in 1628.

John Rockwell, who came to America in December, 1641, and settled in Stamford, Connecticut, is one of our ancestors. His son, John, and grandson, Jonathan, also lived in Stamford. Jonathan's son, John Rockwell, fourth generation in America, was born in Norwalk, Connecticut, April 1706. He married Elizabeth Keeler, daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth (Whitney) Keeler. Their son, John, (fifth generation), is referred to as John Rockwell, Sen., in Matthew's *History of Cornwall*, (1862), page 89, where it is stated that John Rockwell, Sen., came to Cornwall after the arrival of his children, who are elsewhere mentioned as early settlers, and spent the evening of his life with them. At the ad-

vanced age of 92 years, he died on September 9, 1825, only four days after his son who bore the same name.

John Rockwell, Sen., was born in Ridgefield, Connecticut, May 12, 1734. He was a farmer and shoemaker; he married April 16, 1754, at Ridgefield, Hannah Scott of Ridgebury, where she was born October 3, 1731. They lived in Ridgefield until after 1764 when they moved to Lanesborough, Massachusetts, where she died. He married for his second wife Sally Rice, a widow, said to have been born in Virginia; she died in Cornwall, Vermont. He married for his third wife in Stanbridge, L. C., a woman whose name is not now known. She died a year or two after his death. He had in all fourteen children, eleven by the first wife and three by the second.

The Revolutionary record of John Rockwell, Sen., as found on page 362 of *Connecticut Military Records*, states that he enlisted February 11, 1777, and served six years in Captain Humphrey's Company in Second Regiment of Connecticut Line.

Our John, called John Jr., was the oldest son of John Rockwell, Sen. His second son, Jeremiah, settled in Cornwall in 1789 on the farm north of the Congregational Church, a part of which was later occupied by Simeon S. Rockwell's daughter, Mary, who married Dr. E. O. Porter. This property is now, in 1945, owned by Col. John T. McLane.

Mr. Matthews states in his *History of Cornwall* that John Rockwell, Jr., came to Cornwall in 1784 from Ridgefield, Connecticut, and settled on the farm where his grandson, Simeon S. Rockwell, was then (1862) living. Also that the same John Rockwell, Jr., first built on the west side of the road. That by pitches and by purchases from Jeremiah Osgood and others, he acquired an extensive and valuable farm which on his decease, September 5, 1825, at the age of 71 years, was then owned and improved by his son, John Rockwell, 3rd.

John Rockwell, Jr., was born at Ridgefield, Connecticut, April 7, 1755, a farmer; moved about 1766 with his father to Lanesborough, Massachusetts; he married Rebecca Ives, daughter of Enos Ives and Annah Cook, July 22, 1777, at Rutland, Vermont. She was born January 9, 1755. Although John Rockwell, Jr., was married in Rutland, he evidently fought in the Battle of Bennington. It is known that his wife was at Bennington and helped dress the wounds of those who fell in battle near that place August 16, 1777. Her first child, Hannah, was born at Lanesborough, Massachusetts, September 28, 1778; the second, Anna, was born in Bennington, October 30, 1780; the third, Rebecca, was born in Lanesborough, March 4, 1783; the next six were born in Cornwall. When she came to Cornwall with her husband in 1784, she created a sensation for "she was very handsomely gowned and had an extremely fashionable petite figure." She died October 1, 1837.

John Rockwell, Jr.'s sister, Betsey Rockwell, married Rufus Mead in 1792. Their son, Rufus Jr., married Anna Janes, 1816; and their son, Horace, married Mary Amelia Wooster, 1864; and their son, Carl Abel Mead, born October 7, 1870, was a prominent lawyer in New York City where he recently died.

John Rockwell, 3rd, (7th in line) was born in Cornwall, April 2, 1788, four years after his parents had settled there. He married in 1812 Angelina Sperry, "a woman of rare beauty and goodness." She was born in Litchfield, Connecticut, July 17, 1785, and was brought up in the family of Dr. Bird, probably in Connecticut. They had three sons, Sylvester Bird Rockwell, Simeon Sperry Rockwell, and John Sanford Rockwell. The latter died in 1831, aged 11 years. She died in Cornwall, January 19, 1843, aged 57 years.

John Rockwell, 3rd, married for his second wife, Adeline Wallace of Dresden, N. Y., February 14, 1844. They had one child, John Wallace Rockwell, who died June 7, 1863, aged 18 years.

After the death of his first wife, John, 3rd, made a division of his large property giving to both of his living sons a third. The paternal homestead, he conveyed to his son, Simeon Sperry Rockwell, except the "north part which he reserved for himself and whereon he erected some commodious buildings." It is on this property that the Costello family have resided for many years.

Simeon S. Rockwell was born November 21, 1815; he married Mary Beulah Jones, daughter of Deacon Amzi Jones and sister of Hon. Rollin J. Jones, January 1, 1837. She died March 10, 1869. He married for his second wife, Lucy Maria Head of Keeler, Michigan, June 8, 1874. She died September 1908; he on October 19, 1902. They had two daughters, Mary who married Dr. E. O. Porter, and Cornelia who married Harrison Sanford. The latter had two daughters, Beulah and Una. Prior to Simeon's death, he had conveyed the homestead to his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Harrison Sanford. Upon their death, it was owned and occupied for some years by their daughter Beulah. She sold the property in 1945, so that it has now, after a period of over 160 years, passed completely out of the family.

John Rockwell, 3rd, died November 29, 1862, aged 74, and is buried in the Congregational Cemetery with his father and grandfather and two sons, all five bearing the name of John Rockwell.

The editor of the *Register*, in announcing Mr. Rockwell's death, said, in part, that he was a man with ardent and sincere religious feelings, with all the quick sympathies and gentle impulses of a woman—added to all this a form and features the very personification of manly vigor. All who knew him agree that his was a rare combination of those mental, moral and physical qualities attributed to the old Puritan.

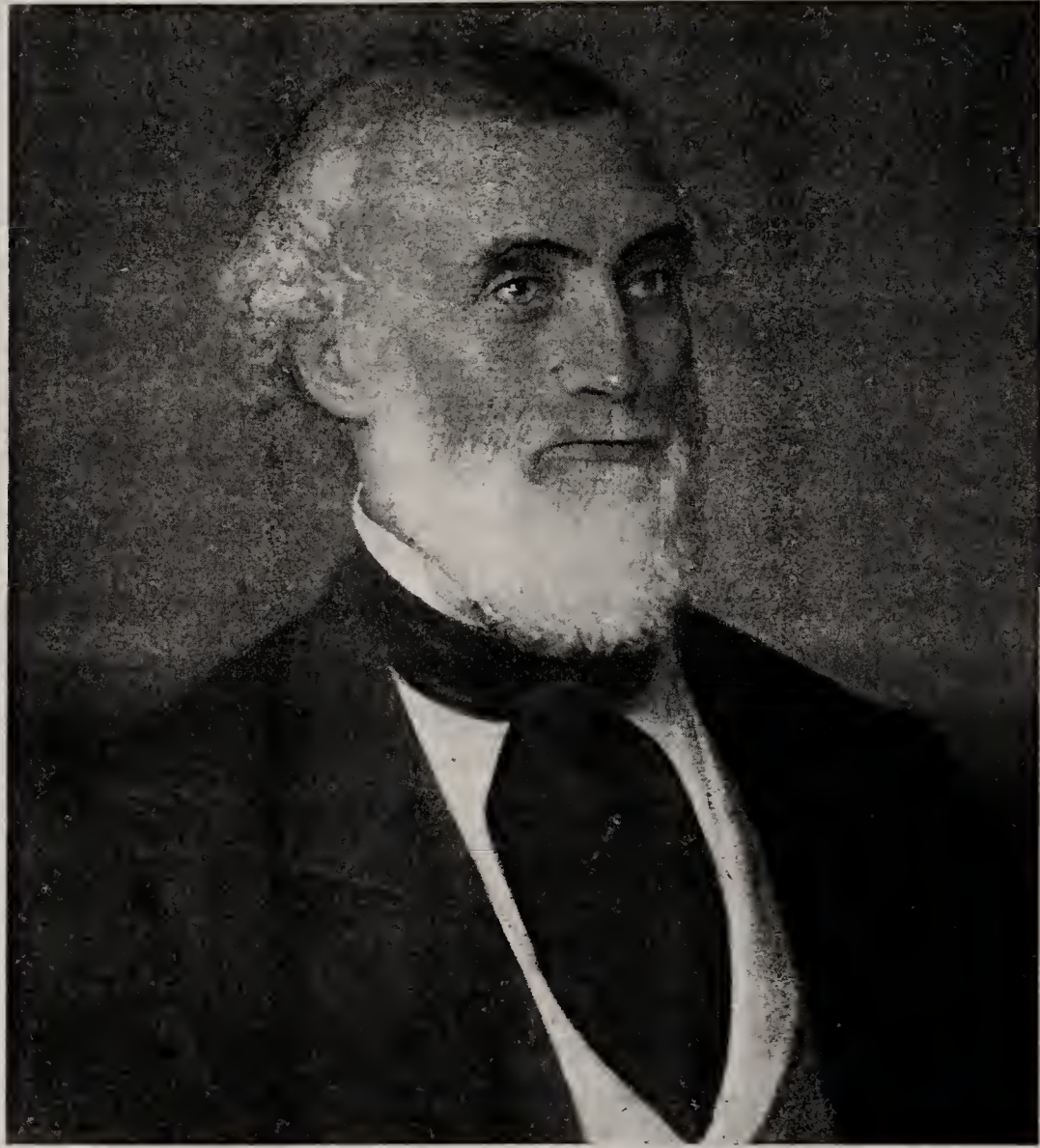
SYLVESTER BIRD ROCKWELL

My Grandfather, Sylvester Bird Rockwell—College—Mercantile Pursuits—Marriage to Elizabeth DeLong—Residence in Cornwall and at Larrabee's Point—Partnership with Hon. Rollin J. Jones—Importation of French Merino Sheep—Their sale in the West—Black Hawk and the Morgan horse—Early travels in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Virginia, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin—"Letters from the West"—Removal to Middlebury in 1856—Springside—Licensed as a local preacher—His wife and daughters—Trip to Pacific Coast—Travels in Oregon and California—Letters published in "Moore's Rural New Yorker"—War days—Ill health—Again in the West—Chicago fire—Plan to locate in Chicago—Financial depression of 1873-1878—Mehitabel DeLong's 91st Birthday celebration—Her death at 93—Death of his wife—His last years, illness, and death.

My grandfather, Sylvester Bird Rockwell, son of John Rockwell, 3rd; and Angeline Sperry (Bird) Rockwell, was born in Cornwall, Vermont, January 15, 1813, on the farm where his grandparents had settled in 1784. His father, often referred to as John Rockwell, 3rd, was a prosperous farmer and business man.

My grandfather grew to manhood on his father's farm in Cornwall where he attended district school. He entered Middlebury College in 1833, but after a year there, he transferred to Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut, class of 1837. This may have been due to the fact that his friend the Rev. Stephen Olin, b. Leicester, Vermont, had just been made President of Wesleyan and that both were strong Methodists. President Olin was graduated from Middlebury College, class of 1820. He was the first president of Randolph Macon College in Virginia, 1834-1837.

Grandfather, however, did not graduate from Wesleyan, being obliged to leave the second year on account of poor



SYLVESTER BIRD ROCKWELL



ELIZABETH DELONG ROCKWELL

health. He returned to Cornwall in 1836 and entered into the mercantile business in a store that had been owned by his father which stood north of the Congregational Cemetery in East Cornwall. On January 29, 1839, he was united in marriage to Elizabeth DeLong of Shoreham by the Rev. Cyprius Gridley. She was the daughter of Francis DeLong and his second wife, Mehitabel Preston DeLong. Mehitabel was born in Poultney, January 30, 1784, and died in Shoreham May 10, 1877, aged 93 years. Francis DeLong was born in Claverack, Dutchess County, New York, May 6, 1776, and died August 24, 1829, aged 53 years. Grandfather was 26 and grandmother 21 when they were married. For a short while they lived in a small cottage he built on the road which runs north from where Ben Haskell's store once stood in West Cornwall, and at a point thought to be just north of where the old road from his father's place intersects the road running north from West Cornwall then called Bingham Street. He lived here only a short while when he moved into a house near his store in East Cornwall which was opposite the old tavern which he afterwards purchased for a home.

Their first child, my Aunt Beaumelle, was born in this house on April 27, 1840. The second child, my mother, Frances Viola, known as "Fannie," was born in Shoreham on October 11, 1846, at the home of her grandmother, Mehitabel DeLong. This house was later owned and occupied by Mehitabel's son, Henry J. DeLong. Their third child, Alice Bird (Aunt Alice) was born April 25, 1852, in the old tavern opposite the store in East Cornwall.

In his *History of Cornwall*, Mr. Matthews states that Nathan Stowell, who came to Cornwall in 1796, kept a tavern until his death; that he purchased the lot of Judge Linsley; that Chauncey H. Stowell, a son of Nathan Stowell erected the present buildings which have been modified and improved by subsequent owners, particularly by Sylvester B. Rockwell.

My grandfather was granted a license as a local preacher in

the Methodist Episcopal Church by order of the Quarterly Conference of Whiting Circuit in April, 1841, which was renewed for one year in April 1842. He later had the honor of being the prime mover of the plan of purchasing a few choice acres of land for camp meeting purposes, which resulted in his appointment with others as a committee for the selection of suitable grounds. The site chosen was a beautiful grove in New Haven about four miles north of Middlebury which was purchased and improved with suitable buildings, walks and drives, and here every summer for many years divine services were conducted usually lasting for a period of ten days. It became known as the "Spring Grove Camp Meeting." The meetings were evidently well attended for an account published in the "Register" states that on a certain Sabbath in 1873 there were, according to the best estimates, not less than 5,500 people present. My grandfather was all through his life an intensely religious man.

Grandfather's mother, Angeline Sperry or Angeline Bird Rockwell, as she was sometimes called, died on January 19, 1843, aged 57 years. The following year his father married for his second wife Adeline Wallace of Dresden, New York, who survived him until about 1884.

At about this time, 1843, my grandfather began operating a store at Larrabee's Point on Lake Champlain, in addition to his store in East Cornwall. All goods for the Larrabee's Point store came up by boat from Troy or Albany and those for the store in Cornwall were hauled overland. Before the opening of railroads on both sides of the lake had shifted the channels of traffic and reduced the commercial importance of the lake, Larrabee's Point was a place of considerable importance. The old tavern which John S. Larrabee bought of Thomas Rowley in 1787 was burned in 1838. The United States Hotel was built on the site of the old tavern by Samuel H. Holley and B. B. Brown. It was standing in 1886 but has since burned. See sketch on next page.

Grandfather lived at Larrabee's Point for several years prior to 1852 when he returned to Cornwall. In the meantime he had formed a partnership with Rollin J. Jones, brother-in-law of Simeon S. Rockwell, for the purpose of raising and selling horses and in the importation and breeding of French Merino sheep, more particularly with reference to Western trade. In 1849, in the prosecution of this business, he made a trip to Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin.

He left Larrabee's Point on April 24th on the steamer "Whitehall" for the village by that name at the head of Lake Champlain; and, after spending a day in Schenectady and one in Auburn, he arrived in Buffalo on May 1st. After a few days there he proceeded by steamer to Cleveland, which he described as a beautiful city having a population of about 16,000 people. Several weeks were spent in visiting towns in Ohio, Indiana and Michigan.



UNITED STATES HOTEL LARRABEE'S POINT, VT. 1861.
HSDALE, PROPRIETOR

He reached New Buffalo, then the western terminus of the Michigan Central Railroad, on July 4th and left immediately by the steamer "Pacific" for Chicago, whence he went

to Southport (now Kenosha), Geneva and Racine in Wisconsin. At Racine he met Mr. Phelps Nash and his brother, formerly of New Haven. They owned about 5,000 acres of land and were extensively engaged in wool growing for which the western prairies were admirably adapted.

Grandfather left Racine July 11th on board the steamer "Empire State" on his return trip home, going via Mackinaw and Detroit to Buffalo. After stopping one day at Niagara Falls, he crossed over to Toronto, where he embarked for Montreal. He left there the next day for Rouses Point where he again boarded the steamer "Whitehall" for Larrabee's Point, arriving there July 24th after an absence of three months. In 1854, and again in 1855, he made trips to Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois.

In 1856, he moved from Cornwall to Middlebury, having purchased of William Nash, the Epaphras Miller farm, including the grounds and house on Seminary Street. These he greatly improved and, because of the many springs found on the acreage, christened the place Springside. He erected the beautiful iron fence in front of the house and built the veranda extending around three sides of the house, put in the sliding doors between the back parlor and the dining room, built the Swiss hen-house, or "poultry cathedral," the spire of which was blown off some years ago. He also erected a green house in the garden and a summer house or grape arbor in the orchard west of the house, both have long since been torn down. He purchased the statues of George and Martha Washington which formerly stood on the front lawn, the latter now stands in the oval-shaped garden on the east side of the house: he also purchased the two iron seats and the two lions which now guard the steps onto the veranda but which once crouched on top of the gate posts that stood on either side of the west driveway. See the picture of Springside opposite page 264 in Swift's *History of Middlebury*, published in 1859, reproduced on next page.



It was in this same year, 1856, and again in 1857 that he went in the interest of his sheep business to Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Virginia. It was grandfather's practice while on these trips to write about the places he visited and the interesting things he saw and to send them for publication to the "Middlebury Register." During this period many persons were emigrating from Vermont to Ohio, Indiana and Michigan and grandfather often in his letters tells of meeting some of these people in the course of his travels through those states. Many of these articles written under the title "Letters from the West" have been preserved in his scrapbooks.

In the spring of 1859, previous to his departure for California and Oregon, my grandfather suggested to Mr. Philip Battell and Mr. Joseph Warner the idea of each planting a tree of different species in the form of a triangle in front of the Congregational Church. The plan was adopted. Mr. Battell selected a walnut, Mr. Warner an oak and my grandfather an elm. At the end of three and a half years, grandfather returned from his Pacific tour to find his elm, which he planted with his own hands, alive and growing nicely, but the other two had died and been replaced by substitutes only one of which was then living. After Mr. Warner's death,

another oak was procured to take the place of the one he had lost. Now, 1945, all have grown to be large trees and their planting suitably shown by small granite markers placed near their trunks.

In January 1860, grandfather accompanied by Hon. Rollin J. Jones set out with a carload of sheep for California and other points on the Pacific Coast, leaving January 20th by the "Steamer Atlantic" from New York City to Aspinwall, thence by train across the Isthmus to Panama and thence by the "Steamer Golden Age" to San Francisco where he arrived February 10th.

On February 16, 1860 my grandmother wrote a letter to my grandfather, addressing him as "My dear Husband," from which I quote the following: "We were very much rejoiced to learn from your letter, written on the Carribbean Sea, that you had so pleasant a voyage from New York to Aspenwall. Hope it will be the same on the Pacific. We have had wintry winds and much colder weather during this month; no sleighing since you left. No snow until today it has been falling all day but I presume not enough for sleighing. We are all well and trying to be as happy and comfortable as possible. Beaumelle is at St. Albans enjoying her visit very much. She will remain two weeks. Johnny Rockwell is here attending school. Rust seems very anxious to hear from you. Charley has been very naughty. He has torn my hen turkey all to pieces. The money you and others sent for the Tribune was lost thus you see we have been without our paper. The Postoffice Department are making an effort to find it. Henry has been here today, tells me he had a harness taken from his sleigh a few nights ago, today he paid thirty dollars for a new one. The same night Edwin Walker's people had their clothes taken from the line. Mr. Mason remains still at the hotel. I have not seen Mrs. Jones or Mrs. Simeon Rockell since you left, the weather has been too cold for me to drive out there. Perhaps the same reason has kept them from coming here. Frances has concluded to take charge of

the Independent. Beaumelle writes to know if we have heard from Papa, but I think best not to wait for her to write lest this letter be too late for this month's steamer.

Wishing you great prosperity, safe journeys and a speedy return, I remain

Yours as ever,

Elizabeth"

After remaining in San Francisco less than a week he left the latter part of February on the first steamer for Salem, the capital of Oregon. He spent about six months in Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia. He then returned to California where he remained for nearly three years returning via the same route to Middlebury where he arrived July 27, 1863, after an absence of over three and a half years. During his long absence, his father died, November 29, 1862; Aunt Beaumelle was attending Mrs. Wooster's Girls School in Burlington; my mother was attending the Middlebury Female Seminary across the street, and Aunt Alice, who was six years younger than my mother, was attending the Graded School in Middlebury.

My mother later spent a year at Ripley's Female College in Poultney, after which she attended Dr. Dio Lewis' Private School for Young Ladies in Lexington, Massachusetts. My Aunt Emma Sanford (Mrs. Charles N. Brainerd, the mother of Cousin Jessie and Heloise) and Jessie Hammond (Mrs. Thad M. Chapman) attended this school at the same time. My father then a student at Andover Theological Seminary in Andover, Massachusetts, became engaged to my mother while she was in school at Lexington; they were married at Springside, December 1, 1868.

Prior to leaving for California in 1860, grandfather had a visit from D. D. T. Moore, publisher of *Moore's Rural New-Yorker*, a weekly rural literary and family newspaper, published in Rochester, New York. He arranged with Grandfather for him to write a series of articles giving an account of his travels on the Pacific Coast. These articles appeared

in that paper from time to time during 1860 and 1861 under the caption of "A Trip to California." Copies of these articles are in my possession.

On July 20, 1860, Grandfather, then in Vaccaville, Solano County, California, wrote a letter to his daughter Beaumelle, in which he acknowledged a letter he had had from her, every sentence of which, he writes, is full of sweetness. "I think of you many times every day and feel that it is a deprivation to be separated from you, but either a real or an imaginary need for more of earthly possessions, combined with a love for trade and adventure has driven me to these distant shores and broken in upon those domestic joys which, God in his great kindness has poured into my bosom in an uncommon measure. For who has a wife more worthy of a husband's devotion, a more interesting group of daughters, a more beautiful home, in short, more to attach him to his domestic altar and hearthstone than he? You say," he further writes, "that Martha and George still occupy their posts of duty acting as faithful sentinels: that Mr. Foote has purchased Dr. Bass' farm and that Emma Foote is now your nearest neighbor." He requests that on the first evening in September she play on her piano and sing that old piece called "Sweet Home" and writes that if she will do so beginning at 8 o'clock he will at 4 o'clock see her in imagination thus creating a sympathy which shall reach from shore to shore. "You refer," he writes, "to Pompey (horse), and Carlo. Tell Carlo to be a good dog." Then he criticises her poor writing and asks her to be more careful about her penmanship. He sends his regards to Bridget and to Jimmy (McNully) and his wife and love to her sisters, Fannie and Alice. He admonishes her to take exercise, to rise early, to be cheerful, to be devout and to read her Bible, and subscribes himself "your affectionate father, S. B. Rockwell, July 20th, 1860."

Grandfather's scrap books abound in his poetical effusions. Here is one he wrote in May, 1873, addressed to my sister Bessie, which was published in the *Montpelier Messenger*:

LITTLE BESSY BRAINERD

God gave us little Bessy B—————,
A lovely pet of summers three,
To love and cherish and protect,
And unto Him her steps direct.

Guide our little Bessy, guide;
O, may she in thy love abide;
Protect her from each sinful snare,
Surround her with thy guardian care.

Be thou, O Christ, her constant friend;
May she for strength on Thee depend;
Vouchsafe thine aid, and ever be
A friend to little Bessy B—————.

O, guide her in the heavenly way,
And suffer not her feet to stray;
O may our little charming pet
From sinful ways by Thee be kept.

May Bessy live from year to year,
Within the circle of Thy fear;
At last receive a radiant crown,
When life's stern duties all are done.

And when the race with each is o'er,
May we all meet on that blest shore,
To offer praises unto Thee,
Including little Bessy B—————.

Mr. Matthews in his *History of Cornwall* states that Hon. Rollin J. Jones and Sylvester B. Rockwell, having formed a partnership in 1849, were induced to engage in raising French Merinos, more particularly with reference to Western trade: that they embarked largely in this trade and prosecuted it with a degree of energy to which their success has corresponded. That, in order to supply them with a more ample stock they purchased in 1853, an entire shipment of French Merino sheep imported by Solomon W. Jewett, then of Weybridge, at an expense of \$18,000. That these were sold by them in the West at prices which yielded an ample return for

their investment. That they introduced many valuable sheep both French and Spanish Merinos into Western New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, and other states more remote. That for the last two years they have resided in California where in connection with Simeon S. Rockwell, who had before been largely engaged in the Western sheep trade, they have been prosecuting their trade on the shores of the Pacific. Mr. Matthews also states that Messrs. Jones and Rockwell have shipped to California a number of horses of the "Black Hawk" variety, a branch of the Morgan family, that of these animals several have been sold at prices ranging from five or six hundred to three thousand dollars.



**JONES & ROCKWELL,
IMPORTERS OF FINE SHEEP AND STOCK HORSES.**

Bucks and Ewes, both French and American Merino.
STALLIONS, COMBINING THE BLOOD OF THE MOST POPULAR TROTTERS AND
ROADSTERS IN THE UNITED STATES.

R. J. JONES, West Cornwall, Vt.

S. B. ROCKWELL, Middlebury, Vt.

GRANDFATHER'S BUSINESS CARD

When grandfather returned from California on July 27, 1863, the war was not yet over, and taxes on everything that could be taxed were being imposed to meet its expenditures. Taxes rose from \$40 million in 1860 to \$490 million in 1865. Congress, in 1862, authorized the issue of legal "tender notes," that is paper money which must be accepted if offered by debtors to creditors. These "greenbacks" gradually grew to over \$450 million. Prior to 1863, we had no National Bank-

ing System but in that year Congress chartered a system of National Banks and laid a tax of 10 per cent on the notes of state banks driving those notes out of circulation and causing the liquidation of many of the so-called Wildcat Banks in the West.

A large part of the business Grandfather had done in the West had been done on credit and collections, which had to be made through agents, were becoming difficult to make. He was, moreover, a sick man and it is evident from statements contained in some of his letters that he felt discouraged because of the trend of things. In the autumn of 1864, he went to Concord, Massachusetts, where his cousin, Lt. Benton Thompson, resided, to take what he described as water treatments. In a letter to Grandmother, dated October 10th, 1864, he complained of feeling badly, but said that Dr. Denison, whom he had consulted, thought he might get the better of his ailment. "My fears are," he wrote, "that it has gained too great a hold on my enfeebled system to yield to any treatment. I cannot walk much farther than I could when I left home and am very sensitive to cold."

Grandfather returned from Concord early in the spring of 1865 much improved in health. Lee had surrendered to Grant at Appomattox on Sunday, April 9th, 1865, and the war was over. But the joy of that event was soon ended, for you will recall that on Good Friday following April 14th, President Lincoln was shot while attending the popular Laura Keane play "Our American Cousin" in Ford's Theatre, Washington; that the assassin, John Wilkes Booth, was the organizer and head of a band of conspirators, and that Lincoln died the next day at the height of his service and power.

Aunt Beaumelle was married at Springside, June 12, 1866, to Ethan Allen Sturtevant, formerly of Weybridge, then a practicing lawyer in East Saginaw, Michigan, where they went to reside. Mr. Sturtevant was a graduate of the college, class of 1863, and of the University of Michigan Law School, class of 1865.

In 1868, Grandfather went to visit Aunt Beaumelle and her husband in East Saginaw. He returned home in time to be present at mother's wedding which, as stated, took place at Springside at 8 o'clock on the evening of December 1, 1868.

Mr. and Mrs. Sturtevant returned in 1873 to live in Middlebury. Mr. Sturtevant was then in poor health and later died, June 10, 1878. They had two children, Beaumelle Mary and Robert Taft. Aunt Beaumelle continued to live in Middlebury until her marriage, March 21, 1883, to Warren Peet of Hayward, California. Mr. Peet, then a widower with two daughters, was formerly from Cornwall. Her son, Robert, died in California; her daughter, Beaumelle, married February 14, 1899, Edwin Boyce Kimball of Hayward, California.

In 1869, after a short visit in Boston and New York, Grandfather again went to East Saginaw and to other points in Michigan. This same year, 1869, saw the completion of the Union Pacific and Central Pacific Railroads and the establishment of a through rail route between San Francisco and the East. Chicago was becoming an important trade center. Grandfather visited that city in 1871, and invested heavily in real estate in the Lake Calumet District, not far from where the suburban station now called "Brainerd" is located on the Rock Island and Baltimore and Ohio Railroads. Grandfather was on the train going from Chicago to Niles, Michigan, at the time of the great fire in Chicago. So enthusiastic had he become over the prospects of that city, that he decided "to locate there and help rebuild the City." Accordingly, he returned to Middlebury and advertised for sale both the Munger Street farm and the Springside property.

Springside was sold in 1873—not to strangers—but to my father and mother. And that fall Grandfather went again to Chicago, this time in an effort to dispose of the large real estate holdings he and his brother Simeon had there. At that time, they still owned the so-called Calumet property upon which

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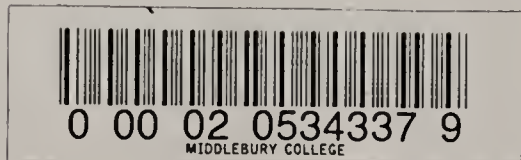
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they had erected a number of houses. One may learn from almost any U. S. History that from 1873 to 1878 was a period of the worst financial distress that the country up to that time had ever known. And although Grandfather remained in Chicago for two months or more, he was unable to sell but a small part of this property and that which he did sell was sold at a considerable loss. He, therefore, returned to Middlebury the latter part of December, 1873. His health had again begun to decline and although he was then only sixty years of age, he found himself unable to cope with his extensive business affairs. This was the situation when my Grandmother, she herself in rather poor health, persuaded my father and mother who were then living in the Albee house on Weybridge Street where my sister Bertha was born and where my sister Dorothy now lives, to return home. It was at this time that the west wing on the house was added and here Grandfather had his office and private apartments. It was here at his home, surrounded by a devoted wife, daughter, son-in-law, and six grandchildren, that he passed his declining years in peace and comfort. He spent his time in reading and writing articles for publication and riding around the countryside in his carriage behind old Prince, his faithful horse, amid the scenes of his early activities.

Great Grandmother DeLong celebrated her 91st birthday on January 20th, 1875, she died at the DeLong homestead in Shoreham, May 10, 1877, aged 93 years. Grandmother Rockwell died at Springside, July 10th, 1881, aged 63 years, Grandfather, March 7, 1884, aged 71 years. All are buried in Cornwall.

EZRA BRAINERD, JR.

Springside, August 5, 1945.



HECKMAN

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